

aetiologies such as pressure ulcers, venous or ischemic wounds or diabetic foot ulcers [1-5]

Objective

To ensure continuity in care in the aim of obtaining the best results from the use of larval debridement therapy, while allowing the administration of treatment in any healthcare context, especially at the patient's own home.

Methods

The procedure for the use of Maggot therapy has been elaborated and coordinated by the Nursing Unit of Ulcers and Complex Wounds of the Hospital Clínico de Valencia. This protocol includes the administrative process, selection of the size of the dressings and the procedure of application and care of the therapy itself. At the same time, an information brochure was prepared for family members, patients and care professionals with information about daily surveillance and application of the therapy.

Results

This protocol is in the process of being implemented, having been applied in several patients with different aetiology of hard-to-heal wounds within home follow-up care with successfully results.

Conclusions

The implementation of a protocol for the use of Maggots debridement therapy seems to be effective in ensuring continuity in the treatment and follow-up of patients with difficult healing wounds in a home care context.

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Keywords

Maggot therapy, Wound care, Debridement, Home-care settings, Protocole.

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Adverse reactions and dietary supplements

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Background

Over the last years, the use of dietary supplements has increased substantially [1]. Although these products are considered as safe and can be beneficial, there are risks associated with some. Manufacturers are not required to demonstrate their safety and efficacy, so it is essential that consumers have good knowledge about dietary supplements [2]. The attribution of injury to a

specific supplement can be challenging, especially because of the multiple ingredients, the variability in quality and content, as well as the vast underreporting of adverse reactions [3].

Objective

This study aims to identify the main adverse reactions and knowledge on reporting adverse events associated to the use of dietary supplements, by the population of Porto (Portugal).

Methods

A descriptive, cross-sectional study was performed through an anonymous, confidential and voluntary questionnaire to 404 adult participants from the municipality of Porto (Portugal). Data were analysed quantitatively using SPSS version 24.0.

Results

Of the 404 participants, 54.7% (221) were females and 45.3% (183) were males. Results revealed that 55.9% (226) of the participants were users of dietary supplements and the common reasons for consuming supplements were to improve memory, concentration and reduce fatigue. Of the 226 consumers of supplements, only 1.3% (3) identified adverse reactions after taking supplements with multivitamins and used for insomnia and anxiety. Of the 404 participants, 21.5% (87) referred to know that it is possible to report an adverse reaction associated to dietary supplements, in Portugal, since 2014. Also, only 8.9% (36) referred to know which entity is responsible for the adverse reactions associated to supplements, and of these 36 participants only 5.6% (2) had correctly answered the name of the entity - Direção Geral da Alimentação e Veterinária (DGAV).

Conclusions

The findings of this survey indicate the need to provide knowledge on reporting adverse events associated with dietary supplements use. It is essential to provide adequate information to facilitate better understanding of the risks associated with the use of these products.

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Keywords

Dietary supplements, Risks, Adverse reactions reporting, DGAV.

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Urinary tract infections and dietary supplements: counselling in pharmacy

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Background

Urinary tract infections (UTIs) are some of the most common bacterial infections [1]. Treatment usually involves antibiotics, and recurrence is a major concern [2]. Therefore, identifying new and effective strategies, like the use of botanical dietary supplements, to control UTIs is a high priority. It is also important to provide health professionals with adequate knowledge related to the use